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# Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /176 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2231
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT GH
SUBJ: NRC'S 2ND ANNIVERSARY: MORE OF THE SAME IN '74

1. SUMMARY: SPEECHES SURROUNDING NRC'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS INDICATE GHANA IN 1974 WILL SEE FEW DEPARTURES, BUT GENERAL TIGHTENING UP OF ECONOMIC BELT AND MEASURES TO INCREASE SELF-RELIANCE. POLITICALLY, NATIONAL PATRIOTISM DECLARED GHANA'S NEW IDEOLOGY, AND MILITARY INTENDS TO GO ON STRAIGHTENING GHANA OUT. MINOR CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION FORESEEN IN NEW YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. SECOND ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL REDEMPTIONCOUNCIL COUP CELEBRATED IN ACCRA JANUARY 11-14. PRONOUNCEMENTS OF NRC CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG (IN PRESS CONFERENCE, DAWN RADIO-TV SPEECH TO NATION, AND SPEECH AT ANNIVERSARY PARADE OF ARMED FORCES) CONVEY FOLLOWING THEMES:

(A) ON POLITICAL FRONT, NRC INTENDS TO RETAIN POWER, BROOK NO
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INTERFERENCE FROM MEDDLING CIVILIAN POLITICIANS (THOUGH SOME CIVILIANS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO PERIPHERAL GOVERNMENT BODIES THIS

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YEAR), AND TO RETAIN IMPETUS OF GHANAIAN "REVOLUTION." NRC HAS
BANISHED FACTIONALISM AND BATTLED TRIBALIS. SOLDIERS WILL
PROVIDE HONEST, EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT, AND ALL POLITICAL ELEMENTS
IN SOCIETY INVITED TO TAKE PART IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION ON
BASIS NEW GHANAIAN IDEOLOGY: NATIONAL PATRIOTISM. MILITARY CALLED
ON TO PRESENT UNITED FRONT AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY SELFISH
POLITICIANS TO CREATE CONFUSION IN MILITARY RANDS.

(B) ON ECONOMIC FRONT, NRC FEELS IT HAS DONE MUCH TO RESCUE NATION
FROM ECONOMIC DISASTERS OF BUSIA REGIME, WILL DO MORE IN COMING
YEAR TO CONSOLIDATE BASIS FOR ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE. FIVE-YEAR
DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR ALL MINISTRIES TO BE DRAWN UP BY MID-YEAR
TO GUIDE ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ACHIEVE SANITY IN NATIONAL
ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT. PENDING FINAL REPORT OF SALARY REVIEW
COMMISSION, EXPECTED BY JUNE, ACHEAMPONG DECLARED A GENERAL SALARY
INCREASE FOR WORKERS WHICH COULD WORK OUT TO ABOUT A 28 PERCENT
INCREASE FOR LOWER-PAID WORKERS, AND SOMEWHAT SMALLER INCREASES
FOR HIGHER-PAID ONES; HE ALSO HINTED THAT PLANS ARE AFOOT FOR
A GENERAL UPWARD REORDERING OF PRICES AND SALARIES TO PUT GHANA
INTO LINE WITH OTHER WEST AFRICAN STATES. NEVERTHELESS, HE WARNED,
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ABROAD ARE BOUND TO AFFECT GHANA, AND THE
NATION MUST EXPECT TO FEEL UNFORTUNATE EFFECTS; THE ANSWER IS
TO WORK HARD, TIGHTEN BELTS, AND ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY TO
EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE.

3. CONSTANT OVERALL THEME OF PUBLIC UTTERNACES WAS NATIONALISM,
PATRIOTISM, PRIDE IN NRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, INTENT TO CREATE BETTER
LIFE FOR GHANAIANS OUT OF RUINS CREATED BY SELFISH, UNPATRIOTIC
CIVILIAN POLITICIANS OF PAST. NRC MEMBERS APPEARED CONFIDENT
AND PROUD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ALMOST COCKY.

4. CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION REFERRED TO PARA 2 CONSISTS OF THREE
GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING COMMISSION, CHARTER
OF REDEMPTION COMMITTEE, AND ANATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, ALL OF
WHICH WILL REQUIRE SERVICES OF CIVILIANS. ACHEAMPONG CHALLENGED
CIVILIANS WHO WANTED TO HELP GHANA TO COME FORWARD AND OFFER THEIR
SERVICES ON THESE BODIES, REPEATING THAT NRC WILL NOT HAND OVER
POWER TO POLITICIANS UNTIL A FIRM FOUNDATION HAS BEEN LAID. HE
WARNED THAT THE LONGER POLITICIANS CONTINUED TO SABOTAGE AND
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SUBVERT, THE LONGER THEY WOULD DELAY THE PULL-OUT BY THE MILITARY.

5. EDITORIAL REACTION TO ALL THIS HAS OF COURSE BEEN LAUDATORY,
BUT TENDS TO INDICATE EDITORS AS A GROUP EVEN MORE MILITANT THAN
NRC AND FEEL MORE COULD BE DONE TO CARRY OUT GENUINE "REVOLUTION"
IN GHANA. EDITORS SEEMS TO THINK HARSHER MEASURES IN "ECONOMIC
WAR" FULLY JUSTIFIED, AND EXPRESS SOME DOUBT ABOUT LETTING ANY
CIVILIANS BACK AT THE TROUGH JUST YET.

6. VERY LITTLE SAID ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STANCE OF GHANA, BEYOND

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STATEMENTS GHANA WOULD LOOK OUT FOR OWN INTERESTS AND ANY FOREIGN ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO REVOLUTION WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN DID SAY GHANA WILL NOT RPT NOT SEND TROOPS TO ANY UNILATERAL EFFORT TO LIBERATE REMAINING AFRICAN COLONIAL AREAS, BUT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN AFRICAN LIBERATION IF REQUEST BY THE OAU AND THE UN.

7. COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, WE CAN EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME IN '74. EXTERNALLY, THE NRC WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH A NATIONALIST, AFRICAN, LINE. INTERNALLY, THE THEME WILL BE CONSOLIDATION OF NRC'S POLITICAL POWER AND THE ORDERLY RATIONALIZATION OF ECONOMIC LIFE. BOTH REQUIRE CURRENT SACRIFICE FOR FUTURE BENEFITS. IDEOLOGICALLY, THE REGIME WILL PUSH MILITARY CONCEPTIONS OF PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM (WITH PERHAPS SOME ATTEMPTS TO ORGANIZE THE PROCESS OF INCULCATING GHANAIANS WITH PATRIOTISM AND NATIONAL SPRITI), LEAVING THE IDEOLIGICAL HIGH GROUND LARGELY IN THE HANDS OF THE VAGUELY OR EXPLICITLY SOCIALIST PHRASEMONGERS WHO DOMINATE THE MARKET-PLACE OF POLITICAL IDEAS IN GHANA.
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